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Mulberry Missionary Baptist Association

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| v. 1. | 1844 | v. 11. | 1895 |
| v. 2. | 1856 | v. 12. | 1896 |
| v. 3. | 1873 | v. 13. | 1897 |
| v. 4. | 1879 | v. 14. | 1898 |
| v. 5. | 1881 | v. 15. | 1899 |
| v. 6. | 1885 | v. 16. | 1900 |
| v. 7. | 1886 | | |
| v. 8. | 1887 | | |
| v. 9. | 1889 | | |
| v. 10. | 1892 | | |

1879

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

MULBERRY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The MULBERRY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened with New Salem church, Chilton county, Ala., in its Fifty Second Annual Session, from September the 27th to the 29th, 1879. Elder I. M. Haigler, who had been appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, nor his alternate, not being present, Elder F. M. Hobson preached the Introductory Sermon from 1st chapter and 22d verse of the Epistle of James: "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers, only deceiving your own selves." The word was preached in power to an attentive congregation.

After a recess of one hour and a half for dinner, the delegates assembled in the meeting house. Prayer was offered by Elder F. M. Hobson, the former Moderator, who then called the body to order and appointed brethren T. M. Barber and J. H. Dewese a committee to read the letters from the churches which was done and the names of the delegates enrolled as follows:

LIBERTY—F. M. Hobson,* I. H. Haigler,† J. H. Dewese.

ELLIOTT'S CREEK—Jacob Smalley,† Henry Thompson,† Wm. Phipps, A. Mitchell,†

LIBERTY HILL—Jasper Giles, William Vardin,† R. B. Childers.

BETHLEHEM—A. Z. Merrell, J. W. Jones, P. L. Carden,†

NEW SALEM—A. B. Hill, H. M. Foshee,* W. G. Riggins,* J. W. Madiox, W. H. Allen, E. M. Bean.

PROVIDENCE—R. M. Honeycutt,* J. J. Lowery, John Boyd,† J. B. Milsted,†

PLEASANT GROVE—J. P. Smitherman, Albert Patterson, James Thomas, A. J. Devenport,†

SIX MILE—W. V. Arnold, P. M. Fancher, D. Z. Ward, R. Owen,†

CENTREHILL—James Allen,* Z. W. Langston, John Brantley,† H. N. Beasley.

SPRINGHILL—Quincy Arnold,† Malcom Morrison,† J. R. Thomas,†

MACEDONIA—D. Z. Merchant, James Ward,† S. E. Waldrop, F. C. Compton,†

Names of Ordained Ministers marked thus *; Absentees †

REHOBOTH—I. M. Hicks,* Thos. Collins, M. F. Lawley.

SHADY GROVE—Joseph Helton,† John Smitherman, Willis Walker,†

SOUTH SANDY—David Dockery,† W. L. Dockery† F. M. Tubb,†

ANTIOCH—Wm. Cochran,* Daniel Ward,* J. M. Langston,* O. J. Cottingham, A. J. Woolley, A. F. L. Head,† M. G. Pratt.

UNION—C. T. Raglin,† J. R. Thompson, J. M. Greathouse.

PINE FLAT—Wm. Latner,† J. T. Smelley,† B. C. P. Latner.

MULBERRY—W. H. Holman, George F. Latner, Joseph C. Hobson,† A. D. Fikes.*

The Association then proceed to the election of a Moderator and Clerk. Elder F. M. Hobson was re-elected Moderator, and R. M. Honeycutt Clerk.

The Articles of Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of De-corum were then read.

Next invited ministers not messengers to seats with us.

Opened the door for newly constituted churches. Mineral Spring Church was received and delegates names enrolled as follows: Harrison Driver, G. S. Collins, H. Benson.

The following committees were then appointed:

On Preaching—D. Z. Merchant, J. H. Deweese, J. J. Lowery, with the Deacons of New Salem Church.

On Arrangement of Business—J. M Langston, J. M. Hicks, H. M. Foshee, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance—Wm. Phipps, S. E. Waldrop, Jasper Giles.

On Sabbath Schools and Documents—J. H. Dewees, W. H. Allen, Wm. Phipps.

On Periodicals—Wm. Cochran, W. V. Arnold, and A. J. Woolley.

On Missions—Daniel Ward, W. G. Riggins, W. H. Allen.

Opened the door for correspondence.

Received Elder T. M. Barber with a package of minutes from the Tuscaloosa Association. From Harmony Association, W. G. Hubbard, with minutes. A package of minutes from Shelby Association. Elder J. A. Mullens from the Unity Association.

The Committee on Preaching offered the following report which was received:

Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock to-morrow, conducted by O. J. Cottingham. Elder T. M. Barber to preach at eleven, followed by Elder Wm. Cochran. Elder J. A. Mullins to preach at 2 in the evening.

On motion adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer offered by Elder I. M. Hicks.

SUNDAY, Sept. 28th, 1879.

The brethren all filled their appointments according to the devotional committee, and labored faithfully to a large and attentive congregation.

Elder T. M. Barber preached at 11, from 2d Corinthians, 8th chapter, 9th verse: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that he was rich yet for your sakes he became poor that ye through his poverty might be rich," followed by Wm. Cochran, after which brother Barber appointed a committee to wait on the congregation to take up a collection for the support of home missions, which amounted to \$11.80 in cash. The brethren preached upon the liberality of the saints, and upon the work and prosperity of the gospel, after which a recess was given and the congregation refreshed by partaking of the bountiful provisions which the church and settlement had provided.

We then assembled at the stand again and Elder J. A. Mullins preached from 2d Corinthians, 2d chapter and 14th verse: "Now thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the Savior of his knowledge by us in every place." The brother preached upon the origin, the travels and the victory of the Church, and we believe that good was accomplished by the labors of the brethren.

MONDAY, Sept. 29th, 1879.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Singing, and prayer by Elder Daniel Ward.

The Moderator then called the body to order, and proceeded to business. Called the roll and marked absentees. (See table.)

Called for the report of Committee on Arrangement of Business. The report read and adopted and business observed as follows:

Opened the door for correspondence. Received Elder J. H. Hendon from Canaan Association.

Returned correspondence as follows:

To the Shelby Association—Elders A. B. Hill, J. M. Langston and W. V. Arnold. Langston to write the Corresponding Letter. To the Unity Association—Elder H. M. Foshee. To Tuscaloosa Association—Elders F. M. Hobson, I. H. Haigler, Wm. Cochran. Wm. Cochran to write. Cahaba Association—Elders Wm. Cochran, J. M. Langston, I. M. Hicks. J. M. Langston to write. To Harmony Association—W. V. Arnold, F. M. Hobson. W. V. Arnold to write.

The Committee on Periodicals offered the following report which was received and the committee discharged:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PERIODICALS.

We, your Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to report that the papers Kind Words, published at Macon, Georgia, and the Alabama Baptist, published at Selma, are true exponents of Baptist teaching, and are eminently suited for our Sabbath schools and for home reading. We therefore earnestly recommend them to the hearty support of all our brethren.

WM. COCHRAN, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS AND DOCUMENTS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools report, that we are sorry to see from the best information we have, that there is so much apathy and indifference manifested among the brethren composing the churches belonging to the Mulberry Association upon the all important matter of Sabbath Schools. While at the same time we are pleased to learn that two of the churches report Sabbath Schools. We recommend that the Association urge it upon the brethren to organize a Sabbath School at all the churches, and that they be sure to report it in their letters to your body.

On examining the letters we find that Liberty Hill church has no pastor, and that Antioch church has licensed Bro. O. J. Cottingham to preach the gospel. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. DEWEESSE, Chairman.

The Committee on Missions offered their report, which was recommitted to them for amendment, and brethren I. M. Hicks, J. M. Langston and J. J. Lowery were added to the committee.

On motion adjourned until 1 p. m., during which time we listened to an interesting sermon delivered by Elder J. H. Hendon, from 1. Peter. 2nd chapter, 9th verse.

Met pursuant to adjournment and the Committee on Finance offered the following report and was discharged:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

| | |
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| We, your Committee on Finance report receiving from the churches For minutes and association purposes..... | \$36 40 |
| For Home Missions | 1 00 |
| In the hands of the Treasurer | 22 00 |
| | |
| Total..... | \$59 40 |

JASPER GILES, Chairman.

On motion, the next session of this body was fixed to meet with Macedonia church, Chilton county, Ala., five miles east of Randolph, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1880; R. M. Honeycutt to preach the Introductory Sermon, F. M. Holson, alternate.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to superintend the printing of 600 copies of these minutes, and to reserve fifty for correspondence.

On motion the Clerk was appointed Treasurer for the next year.

On motion, J. H. Deweesse was appointed distributing agent for the first district, minutes to be sent to Clements Station, Tuscaloosa county, Ala.; J. M. Langston in the second district, minutes to be sent to Six Mile; and P. M. Honeycutt in the third district.

On motion, the Clerk to receive fifteen dollars for his services.

On motion the proposition offered by the Committee on Arrangement of Business to amend the Constitution of this Association, so as to make all ordained ministers of the Association standing delegates of their churches, and that the churches be entitled to their regular delegation, was laid on the table.

On motion brethren J. H. Deweesse, W. V. Arnold and W. H. Allen

were appointed a committee to enquire after indigent ministers and their families, and if any were found in want to proceed at once to collect funds for their relief, and report the same to the next session of this body also to the State Convention.

On motion, Elder J. M. Langston was appointed to write a Circular Letter to be read at the next session of this body, upon the 14th verse of 7th chapter of 1. Corinthians: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband, else were your children unclean, but now are they holy."

The Committee on Missions offered the following report which was received and the committee discharged:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

1. It is with gratitude to God that your committee is able to report the wonderful achievements of our State, Home and Foreign Missions in their respective fields—the blessing of God has rested abundantly on our State mission work. There were but one hundred Sunday Schools two years ago, now we have seven hundred. At that time had only about thirty churches meeting every Lord's day, now we have four hundred. The baptisms reported for last year number nearly four hundred; there were also a great number of prayer meetings organized and the gospel preached in the destitute places and churches.

2. Our Home Mission Board is pushing vigorously the work of the Lord among the Indians and wild tribes, and are now arranging for brother Hartwell, a returned missionary from China, to go at once to the Chinese in California.

3d. Our Foreign Mission Board is prosecuting the work of spreading the Gospel in Africa, in China, and in Italy, with commendable zeal and gratifying results. The work of Northern and English brethren in India and in other countries is simply wonderful. Over 18,000 have been baptised in the last year. We should therefore continue to pray for and give to the cause of Christ of such things as we have.

4th. We know of no destitution within the bounds of this Association. We recommend to our brethren that they investigate the matter and if there are any people destitute of the bible and not able to buy it, to report the same to the next session of this body.

DANIEL WARD, Chairman.

On motion, brethren J. H. Deweese, W. V. Arnold and W. H. Allen were appointed a committee to co-operate with the Harmony Association in selecting a man to preach for us as district evangelist and recommend the appointment of the same:

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following brethren as delegates to the State Convention, J. M. Langston, J. L. Peters, I. M. Hicks, O. J. Cottingham, James M. Langston, F. M. Hobson, James Latham, W. H. Allen, W. V. Arnold, J. O. Butler, A. B. Hill,

The next meeting of the first district will be held with Union church, commencing on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September 1880; F. M. Hobson to preach the Introductory Sermon, I. H. Haigler alternate. Subject for discussion: "Do we as Baptists act towards and nurse our gifts as God requires us to do." Discussion to be opened by Rev. I. H. Haigler.

The next meeting of the 2nd district will be held with Antioch church,

commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1880; Introductory Sermon to be preached by Wm. Cochran, I. M. Hicks alternate. Subjects for discussion : 1. "What constitutes a consecrated ministry?" Opened by I. M. Hicks. 2. "What connection has a Sabbath school with the church?" Opened by W. V. Arnold.

The next meeting of the third district will be held with New Salem Church commencing Saturday before the second Sabbath in August, 1880. Introductory Sermon to be preached by A. B. Hill, W. G. Riggins, alternate.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered to New Salem church and citizens of the vicinity, for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Association.

While singing, the brethren extended to each other the parting hand. Prayer being then offered were dismissed to meet at the time and place aforesaid.

F. M. HOBSON, Moderator.

R. M. HONEYCUTT, Clerk.

CLERK AND TREASURER'S REPORT.

R. M. HONEYCUTT, In Account with Mulberry Association.

| DR. | CR. |
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| To amount received from Finance Committee,..... | \$58 40 |
| By amount paid for printing minutes..... | \$20 00 |
| By Clerk's fees,..... | 15 00—\$35 00 |
| Balance on hand..... | \$24 40 |

STATISTICAL TABLE.